

named for the original pastor, an enslaved man, Andrew Bryan.

To celebrate the anniversary, members of the congregation put on a play that showed the history of the church's founding.

The new pastor-elect, Reverend Christopher Pittman, will be the church's 20th pastor in its long-storied history.

Congratulations, First Bryan Baptist Church, on this wonderful anniversary. I hope your next 235 years are as successful as your first.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOM FANNING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Fanning of the Southern Company.

Tom is the current chairman of the board, CEO, and president of Southern Company. For more than 42 years, Tom's excellent leadership has helped mold Southern Company into the great company it is today.

Tom has been responsible for leading the Nation's new nuclear initiative while at Southern Company. He has overseen the installation of two state-of-the-art units in Georgia, adding more than 4,000 megawatts of renewable energy since 2012.

Southern Company is the only U.S. energy provider investing in an all-of-the-above approach to America's energy future.

I thank Tom for his decades of service and leadership to Southern Company, the First District of Georgia, and our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEBE FLYNN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Bebe Flynn.

Bebe was born in Lenoir City, Tennessee, in 1921. While living in Lenoir City, Bebe and her family were some of the few Catholics in town. In fact, a priest traveled to say mass once a month in their home. Maintaining her faith was always a strong focus for her.

After high school, Bebe attended Saint Mary's Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Knoxville, Tennessee, graduating as a registered nurse in October of 1943.

In 1945, she married her childhood friend and high school boyfriend, John Flynn.

In 2013, Bebe was the first recipient of Saint Patrick's of the Bishop's Award for her significant contributions to the parish as a volunteer.

Bebe and her husband, John, loved to travel in retirement, often with retirees from Denison.

She made friends where she went and was known for always keeping an upbeat attitude in life. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew her.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RUSSELL PEARCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and legacy of Russell Pearce, a constituent, a colleague, a patriot, and a dear friend. Russell passed January 5, 2023, in Mesa, Arizona.

A fifth-generation Arizonan with a deep pioneer heritage, Russell was born June 23, 1947, to Hal and Norma Pearce in Mesa, Arizona. Russell had humble roots, but was raised by a loving, hard-working mother who taught him that he could make his own path in the world.

Driven by his faith, he knew that the principles of our divinely inspired founding documents established the United States of America as a bastion of liberty and peace. This belief ignited a sense of duty that led Russell to a life of success through service to his community, his State, and his country.

He first answered the call to serve in 1965 when he joined the Arizona National Guard during the Vietnam conflict. He served honorably until 1972, and, in the interim, joined the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, being sworn in as a deputy in 1970.

Law enforcement was in Russell's blood, as his ancestor, Joe Pearce, had been one of the original Arizona Rangers. Two of his own sons, Sean and Colten, have followed Russell's example, joining the MCSO and also the Gilbert Police Department, respectively.

In protecting his community, Russell demonstrated unrivaled toughness, courage, and dedication to duty. In 1977, while pursuing known gang members through a Phoenix suburb, one of them turned and fired. Russell was shot through the hand and chest, losing a finger. However, though wounded, Russell raced after the criminals and arrested them before seeking medical treatment.

He received the Medal of Valor for his actions, the department's highest honor. Russell's tenacity and excellence led to steady promotions, eventually reaching the level of captain.

After his first stint at MCSO, Russell was elected to his public office as justice of the peace for Mesa's new north justice district in 1991. He earned a reputation of trust from Mesa's citizens and public officials.

He rejoined MCSO when he was appointed MCSO's chief deputy in 1993 by America's toughest sheriff, Joe Arpaio. Serving as chief deputy for the largest law enforcement organization in Arizona and the fourth largest in the United States was a monumental task.

Russell developed not only a love of but a true talent for public policy. He crafted and successfully implemented major reforms aimed at cutting millions in taxpayer costs and reducing offender recidivism.

His success as chief deputy led to his appointment as director of the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, where he led the Motor Vehicle Division. He created ServiceArizona.com, a first-in-the-Nation web service that made registration faster and simpler for Arizona motorists and exponentially reduced wait times and costs.

Of course, Russell is best known, nationally and locally, for his work in the Arizona State Legislature. He served for 11 years representing North Mesa in the Arizona State House first, and then the Arizona Senate.

While in the senate, Russell demonstrated the foresight to tackle the biggest challenges facing Arizona and its citizens. I was honored to serve with him and call him my friend and colleague.

Russell authored and introduced important legislation designed to shrink government. Ultimately, he was elected senate president and worked steadfastly to advance legislation that promoted the principles and values important to Arizonans: the right to life, the sanctity of marriage, defense of our southern border, and reverence for the Constitution and God-given liberties.

At times, Russell's courage to bring these issues to the front placed Arizona in front of national issues, such as the passage of S.B. 1070, which allowed, among other provisions, State and local enforcement of immigration law. That took foresight. It took immense courage to be the face of that legislation.

Russell Pearce was ahead of his time. With the current overwhelming crisis at our southern border, we see that States take the brunt of the consequences when the Federal Government fails to enforce our laws and protect our citizens.

Millions of Arizonans are freer, safer, and more prosperous thanks to Russell Pearce's courageous and farsighted leadership in addressing difficult public policies. Freedom-loving Americans across this great country enjoy the fruits of his efforts, thanks to their respective States modeling legislation after those crafted under Russell's leadership.

His professional and political legacy is truly unmatched and is only outshone by his love of God and service to his church, his loyalty to the country he loved and, most importantly, his beautiful family that survives him: his wife, LuAnne; his 5 children and 13 grandchildren.

To quote Russell himself:

"You know where my heart is. You know it is with this great Republic of ours and its freedom-loving citizens. I believe God had His hand in making America. We have the greatest document ever written by wise and virtuous men and the greatest country in the world because of freedom-loving people like you, the freedom-loving people of America. I, for one, will continue to fight to protect your freedoms from government encroachment. It is America's commitment to that freedom, personal responsibility, and moral government that makes us strong."

Rest in peace, Russell, and God bless LuAnne and the Pearce family.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National School Choice Week and the importance of school choice.

I was proud to join my colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina, in introducing the CHOICE Act last Congress, which would expand the school choice options and programs for elementary and secondary school children. I look forward to working together again on similar legislation.

I was also proud to join Representative JOHN MOOLENAAR last week on his resolution to designate this week as National School Choice Week.

In Iowa, we recognize that every child learns and processes information differently, and we have empowered parents and students to choose the school best suited to their needs.

We are fortunate to have Governor Kim Reynolds, who is leading the Nation in school choice policy, and who has been a strong advocate for school choice throughout her tenure.

□ 1215

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many children were forced to transition to virtual learning while some private schools stayed open. Unfortunately, this resulted in a significant drop in testing averages across core subjects like reading comprehension and math.

This proved, in some instances, that public schools weren't able to adapt to the needs of each individual student. However, some students in private or charter schools were able to excel because of smaller class sizes or specialized education tailored to their strengths.

I am honored to represent a State where we put parents first, where parents matter, and where parents have a right to a say in their children's education instead of Washington bureaucrats. As a mother of two, I understand how important it is to ensure that your children receive the best education possible.

I will continue to fight for school choice to ensure every child in America has a chance to succeed in the best possible learning environment. Our children deserve nothing less.

I would also like to wish a happy birthday to my nephew. Happy birthday, Andrew.

I would like to extend birthday wishes to Nicholas Pottebaum, one of my very first campaign volunteers and now a health policy adviser to Senator GRASSLEY. Happy birthday, Nick.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE JIM KOLBE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Thomas Kolbe, an Arizonan, a decorated Navy veteran,

and a patriot who faithfully served my State and our country for most of his life.

James Thomas Kolbe always introduced himself as Jim, and that is how he will be remembered by all those who knew him and those in this Chamber who were his colleagues.

For 22 years, Jim also was well known in his hometown of Tucson and here in the Nation's Capitol by the position he held—Congressman.

Congressman Kolbe died on December 3 at the age of 80. He led a long, accomplished life, and I am honored, truly honored, to hold the House seat he held for 11 terms.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege as a new Member of the United States House of Representatives to offer this tribute to a man I considered a friend, a mentor, and a role model.

Jim was an elder statesman of Arizona politics. He was a proven vote-getter who knew how to build coalitions to achieve real results for his district, his State, and our Nation. He knew how to get things done in Washington but never forgot who sent him here and why. He was a tireless advocate for Arizona, and he brought that unique Arizona perspective to public policy debates for which this body is so well known.

Jim served alongside giants and, in the process, became one himself. Barry Goldwater, Mo Udall, Ed Pastor, John McCain, Jon Kyl—Jim knew and worked with them all. In fact, Jim got his first taste of politics as a young man serving as a page for the legendary Senator Goldwater, who was in his final term when the voters of what was then Arizona's Fifth Congressional District chose Jim to be their voice in Washington.

Jim was born in Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, but became a champion of the party of Lincoln in Arizona. He came to the Grand Canyon State when he was 5 with his parents when he left the Midwest for a ranch in the desert of southern Arizona, just a few miles from the border with Mexico.

Little did Jim know back then that our country's relationship with Mexico would become one of his signature issues as a Representative from a border State. Jim was a celebrity in the big small town of Tucson.

No matter where he went, everyone knew him. Folks would approach him in the grocery store, at the gas station, or on the street. When they stopped him and called him Congressman Kolbe, he would always make sure to remind them, "Just call me Jim."

I first met Jim when I was a student at Pima Community College. He was my hometown Representative. We continued our relationship long after that first meeting over two decades ago.

Jim gave me wise advice when I first decided to run for his former seat. I will always remember our regular catch-up meetings at Millie's Pancake Haus on the east side of town.

Jim was someone who came to the House not for a big title but to do big

things, and he did just that. He was an expert on trade and became one of the chief architects of the original North American Free Trade Agreement, which he was convinced was a key that opened the door to prosperity.

Fiscal responsibility was important to Jim. Our environment was important to Jim. Water was important to Jim. He was never reluctant to work across the aisle.

Jim was everything a Representative should be. He understood that the word "Representative" was not a job title; it was a job description, and that is why he came back to Tucson nearly every weekend to hear firsthand what was on people's minds.

Jim, my friend, on behalf of the men and women of our little corner of Arizona, thank you. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to making our district, our State, and our Nation a better place.

My prayers are with Hector and the Kolbe family.

RECOGNIZING PETE McClymont

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Third District native Pete McClymont for his contributions to the Nebraska beef industry.

Pete was raised on a farm and ranching operation near Holdrege, Nebraska, and has maintained a lifelong commitment to growing the Nebraska cattle business and advancing the State as a leader in agriculture.

With steadfast excellence, Pete has fostered growth in numerous sectors of agribusiness in Nebraska and recently announced his retirement after 25 years of service in several roles with the Nebraska Cattlemen, including the last 10 as the organization's executive vice president.

Nebraska's first nickname was "The Beef State," and Pete's list of accomplishments in maintaining that reputation is long. Despite having to navigate the difficult conditions of disasters, drought, and market challenges, Nebraska's beef industry is better for his leadership, and we continue to be grateful for his outstanding service.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALTZ) at 2 p.m.